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Library Services for the Visually and Physically Handicapped in Australia: a Directory



National Library of Australia
1977

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INTRODUCTION

In March 1976 a seminar was organised by the A.C.T. Branch of the Library Association of Australia to discuss the provision of library services for the visually and physically handicapped. The seminar recommended:

1. That the National Library of Australia investigate the establishment of a national service for the visually and physically handicapped modelled on the service provided by the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
2. That the National Library of Australia, or some other body nominated by the Library Association of Australia, survey existing braille and talking book materials available throughout Australia for the visually and physically handicapped and publicises the material and resources available, perhaps through the State Libraries or other appropriate authorities, as well as investigating the possibility of development of national co-operation in this field.
3. That the National Library of Australia, or a body recommended by the Library Association of Australia, as a matter of urgency compile a simplified union catalogue of braille and talking books held in Australia.

Following consideration of these resolutions, the National Library agreed that, as a first step, the Library should survey the braille and talking book collections in Australia. This has now been done and the publication of this directory is a result.

As resources become available to it the National Library will proceed with the planning and compilation of a union catalogue of braille and talking books. The question of nation-wide library services for the visually and physically handicapped has been referred to a Working Party by the Ministers of Social Security and Administrative Services. This Working Party which is being convened by the National Library met for the first time in May 1977.

The questionnaires on which the directory is based were sent in September 1976 to almost 300 organisations, which included those dealing specifically with the handicapped, the state libraries, a small number of public libraries and all the university libraries. Responses were received from 225 organisations of which 44 stated they provided some form of library service for the handicapped.

The compilers have included in the directory the organisations known to be giving library service to the visually and physically handicapped. University libraries have not been included as Australian universities have few students with visual or physical handicaps. Blind university students are served mainly by the local state organisations serving the blind. While some public libraries are included with details of their holdings of large print books, it is acknowledged that most public libraries in Australia have some large print books in their collections.

Any organisation which has been omitted from this directory is invited to notify

Mr David Barron
Principal Librarian
Social Sciences
National Library of Australia

so that a note of its services may be included in future editions.

G. Chandler
Director-General

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Canberra Braille Transcribers Inc.
Room 12

Turner Primary School

Turner A.C.T. 2601

Phone (062) 487392

Contact A.M. Lewis (Honorary Secretary)
51 Lowanna Street
Braddon A.C.T. 2601

Collections

Braille books

229 titles

Services

Anyone with a visual handicap may use the library. The collection contains readers for infant classes, junior fiction, adult fiction and non-fiction.

Canberra Public Library Service

74 Leichhardt Street

Kingston A.C.T. 2604

Phone (062) 950078

Contact Mr A.L. Ketley

Collections

Large Print books

1010 titles

Services

The collection consists mainly of adult fiction.

The Library is open to the people who reside or work in the A.C.T.

National Library of Australia

Parkes Place

Parkes A.C.T. 2600

Phone (062) 621604

Contact Mr David Barron
Principal Librarian
Social Sciences

Australian Capital Territory (continued)

National Library of Australia (continued)

Collections

Braille books

760 titles

Services

The collection is a pool of lesser used material (mainly standard works of literature) which was established in 1971 at the request of the Australian National Council for the Blind. It is augmented from time to time by transfers from Australian braille libraries. This braille material is available to all on inter-library loan.

NEW SOUTH WALES

Association of Blind Citizens of New South Wales

‘Shirley House’

11a Ethel Street

Burwood N.S.W. 2134

Phone (02) 7472211, 7474260

Contact

Mrs Diana Braun

19 Britannia Avenue

Burwood N.S.W. 2134

Collections

Braille books

1225 titles

Large Print books

94 titles

Services

The collection includes a very wide range of material.

All visually handicapped people in N.S.W. may use the library.

Australian Red Cross Society, N.S.W. Division

159 Clarence Street

Sydney N.S.W. 2000

Phone (02) 2902622

Contact

Miss J. French

Collections

Large Print books

420 titles

Services

The collection covers general reading material.

The library is open to patients in service and ex-service hospitals and the Society's homes and hospitals.

Hurstville Municipal Library

Civic Centre

Hurstville N.S.W. 2220

Phone (02) 5796222

Contact

L.B. Urane

New South Wales (continued)

Hurstville Municipal Library (continued)

Collections

Large Print books 1665 titles

Services

The collection covers all Ulverscroft and Lythway publications and includes the large print editions of the *Age* and *Readers Digest*.

Marrickville Municipal Library

Town Hall

Marrickville N.S.W. 2204

Phone (02) 5691816

Contact Frances Charteris
12/63 Warren Road
Marrickville N.S.W. 2204

Collections

Cassettes (spoken word) 300 titles

Tapes (reel to reel) 3 titles

Large Print books 800 titles

Services

The collection includes poetry, plays and children's stories.

The library is open to all residents or ratepayers.

Royal Blind Society of N.S.W.

4 Mitchell Street

Enfield N.S.W. 2136

Phone (02) 7476622

Contact Ms Pamela Beadle

New South Wales (continued)

Royal Blind Society of N.S.W. (continued)

Collections

Braille books	4277 titles
Moon books	366 titles
Talking books	1000 titles
Cassettes (spoken word)	109 titles
Tapes (reel to reel)	20 titles
Large Print books	100 titles

Services

The book collection is of a general nature. The tapes and cassettes contain study texts.

All registered blind people in N.S.W. may use the library.

St. Edmund's School for Blind Boys

60 Burns Road (P.O. Box 82)

Wahroonga N.S.W. 2076

Phone (02) 481684

Contact Principal

Collections

Braille books	215 titles
Cassettes (spoken word)	52 titles
Large Print books	80 titles

Services

The collection consists of school texts and fiction.

The library is open to the boys and old boys of the school.

St. Mary's School for the Blind

23 Cleveland Street

Wahroonga N.S.W. 2076

Contact Mrs P. Morgan

New South Wales (continued)

St Mary's School for the Blind (continued)

Collections

Braille books	300 titles
Cassettes (spoken word)	20 titles
Large Print books	100 titles

Services

The collection consists mainly of materials at primary school level.

The library serves the children of the school. However, others may use it if they wish.

Salvation Army Braille Fellowship

Moore Creek Road

Tamworth N.S.W. 2340

Phone (067) 634851

Contact Brig. C.K. Rooney

Collections

Braille books	40 titles
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Services

The collection contains mainly Salvation Army material.

The library is open to anyone who wishes to use it.

'Hear-A-Book Service'

Stanton Library

234 Miller Street

North Sydney N.S.W. 2060

Phone (02) 925880

Contact Mrs N. Hinchin

Collections

Talking books	82 titles
Large Print books	600 titles

New South Wales (continued)

'Hear-A-Book Service' (continued)

Services

The collection consists of recreational material, mostly fiction.

The library may be used by residents and ratepayers of North Sydney, people working in North Sydney and residents of other areas with which there is a reciprocal borrowing agreement.

Students' Library

34 Grove Street

Marrickville N.S.W. 2204

Phone (02) 5592323

Contact Mr Neville Neich

Collections

Braille books

500 titles

Services

The library is open to all who wish to use it. The collection covers mainly English history, literary criticism and music.

QUEENSLAND

Narbethong School for the Visually Handicapped

25 Salisbury Street

Buranda Qld 4102

Phone (07) 3917711

Contact Teacher-Librarian

Collections

Braille books 1432 titles

Talking books 88 titles

Cassettes (spoken word) 170 titles

Tapes (reel to reel) 250 titles

Large Print books 4121 titles

Services

The collection includes fiction and educational materials to matriculation level.

All visually handicapped students and their parents, teachers and other people involved in the education of visually handicapped may use the library.

Queensland Braille Writing Association

507 Ipswich Road

Annerley Brisbane Qld 4103

Phone (07) 485257

Contact Mrs J.E. Bean
 195 Laurel Avenue
 Graceville Qld 4075

Collections

Braille books 2471 titles

Moon books 520 titles

Services

All visually handicapped may use the library. The scope of the collection is comprehensive and includes biographies, travel works, classics, humour, fiction etc.

Queensland (continued)

Queensland Industrial Institution for the Blind

Cornwell Street

Annerley Qld 4103

Phone (07) 3913686

Contact

Mr Ian Stewart

19 Bindaree Street

Greenslopes Qld 4120

Collections

Talking books

450 titles

Services

The collection includes fiction, biography, history and travel.

The library is open to people in receipt of the Commonwealth Blind Pension or people certified by a doctor to have no reading vision.

Queensland Tape Service for the Handicapped

Box 582 P.O.

South Brisbane Qld 4101

Contact

Mr T.B. Wielaert

Collections

Cassettes (spoken word)

170 titles

Tapes (reel to reel)

70/80 titles

Services

The collection consists of cassettes and tapes which have been prepared on request since 1968. It is still growing and includes 25-30 major tertiary texts.

Any handicapped person unable to read normally may use the library.

State Library of Queensland

William Street

Brisbane Qld 4000

Phone (07) 2218400

Contact

Mr S.L. Ryan

Queensland (continued)

State Library of Queensland (continued)

Collections

Cassettes (spoken word)

(a) Tape Services to the Handicapped 616 titles

(b) 'Hear a Book Service' 120 titles

Large Print books 260 titles

Services

The collection contains fiction and popular adult non-fiction.

Large print and 'Hear a Book Services' are available to all. The Tape Services to the Handicapped are restricted to holders of medical certificates.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Blind Welfare Association of S.A. Inc.

84 Archer Street

North Adelaide S.A. 5006

Phone (08) 441346

Contact Mr A. Mortimer
409 Military Road
Largs Bay S.A. 5016

Services

The library consists of extracts from journals on cassettes.

All bonafide blind people in S.A. may use the library.

Regency Park Centre for Physically Handicapped Children

The Crippled Children's Association of S.A. Inc.

G.P.O. Box 2244

Adelaide S.A. 5001

Phone (08) 2684444

Contact Ms Julie Campbell

Collections

Hope to have 25 talking books and 40 cassettes (spoken word) by 1977

Services

The collection will contain children's books when established.

The library is open to students of the school only.

Royal Society for the Blind of S.A.

Blacks Road

Gilles Plains S.A. 5086

Phone (08) 2614611

Contact Mr C. Klopp

Collections

Braille books

1700 titles

Talking books

1200 titles

South Australia (continued)

Royal Society for the Blind of S.A. (continued)

Services

The collection includes fiction, some non fiction, biography and students' texts.

All blind people in South Australia may use the library.

S.A. School for Deaf & Blind Children

Smith Avenue

Hove S.A. 5048

Phone (08) 2985055

Contact Miss Sandra Rumball

Collections

Braille books 1750 titles

Cassettes (spoken word) 80 titles

Tapes (reel to reel) 20 titles

Large Print books 101 titles

Services

The collection consists of fiction, reference works and textbooks for primary and secondary level students.

Students of the S.A. Schools for Deaf and Blind Children may use the library.

State Library of South Australia

Box 419, G.P.O.

Adelaide S.A. 5000

Phone (08) 2238911

Contact Mr R.K. Olding

Collections

Cassettes (spoken word) 384 titles

Large Print books 1040 titles

South Australia (continued)

State Library of South Australia (continued)

Services

The collection is comprehensive. It includes all titles in the 'Hear A Book' range.

People living in S.A. and visitors to the state may use the library.

TASMANIA

‘Hear A Book Service’ Inc. (Tasmania)

C/- Mrs Barbara Sattler

Founder and Hon Secretary

‘Cornelian Hill’

Bagdad Tas. 7404

Phone (002) 230561

Contact

Mrs Pauline Bindoff

'Hear a Book Service' Inc.

Box 812H, G.P.O.

Hobart Tas. 7001

Collections

390 titles available and some cassettes. Detailed information not available.

Services

The collection includes fiction, study texts, biography, travel, religion and poetry.

All visually or otherwise handicapped people may use the library.

The Royal Tasmanian Society for the Blind and Deaf

Argyle Street

North Hobart Tas. 7000

Phone (002) 232696

Contact

Mrs P. McCormack

Collections

Braille books

1400 titles

Talking books

957 titles

Cassettes (spoken word)

50 titles

Services

The collection includes fiction, children's books, biographies, history, travel etc.

All registered blind people may use the library.

Tasmania (continued)

State Library of Tasmania
91 Murray Street
Hobart Tas. 7000

Phone (002) 308033

Contact State Librarian

Collections

Cassettes (spoken word)

550 titles

Large Print books

2000 titles

Services

The collection covers mainly popular works and includes fiction, biography and travel.

The library is open to those persons in Tasmania who cannot read a conventional book because of some disability.

VICTORIA

Association for the Blind

7 Mair Street

Brighton Beach Vic. 3188

Phone (03) 5988555

Contact Ms Penny Webster

Collections

Braille books

37 titles

Moon books

1 title

Cassettes (spoken word)

3 titles

Large Print Books

270 titles

Services

The collection consists mostly of journals.

The library is open to staff, clients and research workers.

Australian Red Cross Society

National Headquarters

122 Flinders Street

Melbourne Vic. 3000

Phone (03) 634251, 631845, 732095

Contact Miss M. Mogford

Collections

Talking books

1271 titles

Services

The collection has been developed to provide leisure time reading for the over-50 age-group. It consists of fiction and biography.

Ex-service personnel and war widows may use the library.

Victoria (continued)

Australian Red Cross Society
Victorian Division
122 Flinders Street
Melbourne Vic. 3000

Phone (03) 734331

Contact Director
 Library Services
 Victorian Division

Collections

Large Print books 1508 titles

Services

The collection consists of general works.

The library is open to patients in all hospitals, convalescent homes and similar institutions.

Braille and Talking Book Library
31-51 Commercial Road
South Yarra Vic. 3141

Phone (03) 264786

Contact Miss Joan Simmonds

Collections

Braille books	5000 titles
Talking books	1200 titles
Cassettes (spoken word)	150 titles
Large Print books	500 titles

Services

The collection consists of general fiction, literature and non-fiction

Legally blind persons and, in some cases, handicapped people may use the library.

Victoria (continued)

The Christian Foundation for the Blind

256 Riversdale Road

Hawthorn East Vic. 3121

Phone (03) 828234

Contact Miss Ethel Davidson

Collections

Braille books 45 titles

Talking books 174 titles

Cassettes (spoken word) 115 titles

Services

The collection consists of Christian literature including biography, history, fiction, theology and biblical studies, music and hymnology, and scripture for children and adults.

'Hear A Book Service'

Traralgon City Library

P.O. Box 423

Traralgon Vic. 3844

Phone (051) 742534

Contact Mrs D.M. Teasdale

Collections

Cassettes (spoken word) 61 titles

Large Print books 678 titles

Services

The collection consists mainly of general fiction; however, some non-fiction material is available.

The materials may be borrowed by the residents of the Traralgon city and shire. The reading room is open to all.

Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind

557 St Kilda Road

Melbourne Vic. 3000

Phone (03) 511381

Contact Mrs J.M. Fialides

Victoria (continued)

Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind (continued)

Collections

Talking books	1142 titles
Tapes (reel to reel)	1513 titles

Services

The collection is comprehensive and includes books in Italian.

The Library is open to all legally blind. Handicapped people who may wish to use it should seek permission from the Institute's board of management.

Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind

School for Blind Children

Burwood Road

Burwood Vic. 3125

Phone (03) 2886422

Contact Miss J. Murphy

Collections

Braille books	1000 titles
Cassettes (spoken word)	325 titles
Large Print books	400 titles

Services

The collection consists of reference and text books for primary and secondary levels. Fiction and non-fiction for seniors and juniors are also available.

The library may be used by staff, children and their parents and external students.

St Paul's School for the Blind and Visually Handicapped

6-10 Studley Park Road

Kew Vic. 3101

Phone (03) 869493

Contact Mrs Beryl Pausacker

Victoria (continued)

St Paul's School for the Blind and Visually Handicapped (continued)

Collections

Braille books	1500 titles
Cassettes (spoken word)	41 titles
Large Print books	500 titles

Services

The collection includes reference texts, school books and reading texts to form 6.

Present and past students of the school and anyone else who requests it may use the library.

State Library of Victoria

328 Swanston Street

Melbourne Vic. 3000

Phone (03) 6634811

Contact Miss M. Ramsay

Collections

Large Print books	1360 titles
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Services

The collection includes all Ulverscroft, Lythway and Portway large print books and some G.K. Hall and Magna publications.

The library provides a lending service to Victorian residents.

Yooralla Special School

Stroud Street

Balwyn Vic. 3103

Phone (03) 856689

Contact Miss N. Pearce

Collections

Cassettes (spoken word)	16 titles
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Victoria (continued)

Yooralla Special School (continued)

Services

The collection consists of secondary school texts, novels, plays and children's books.

The library is open to all physically handicapped children and youth from 5 to 20 years of age.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Braille Society for the Blind of W.A. (Inc.)

61 Kitchener Avenue

Victoria Park W.A. 6100

Phone (092) 621122

Contact

Mrs Gillian Smith

22 Kathleen Close

Maida Vale W.A. 6057

Collections

Braille books

1400 titles

Moon books

240 titles

Cassettes (Spoken Word)

50 titles

Services

The collection is comprehensive and includes tertiary and secondary school level text-books, literature for secondary school level, fiction and small junior collection.

Cassettes are available only to visually handicapped students.

Society for Talking Books for the Blind

151 Guildford Road

Maylands W.A. 6051

Phone (092) 711616

Contact

Mrs Smallwood

Collections

Talking books

1600 titles

Services

The collection covers a variety of subjects and is available to the visually handicapped.

Western Australia (continued)

The Royal W.A. Institute for the Blind (Inc.)

134 Whatley Crescent

Maylands W.A. 6051

Phone (092) 721122

Contact

Mrs C. Bitchener

C/- 151 Guildford Road

Maylands W.A. 6051

Collections

Braille books

74 titles

Moon books

3 titles

Talking books

1480 titles

Services

The collection is comprehensive; it includes materials on all topics.

The library is open to all visually handicapped people.

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HV1721 LIBRARY SERVICES FOR THE
L616 VISUALLY AND PHYSICALLY
HANDICAPPED IN AUSTRALIA:
A DIRECTORY.

Date Due

(1977)

AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR THE BLIND
15 WEST 16TH STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10011

Printed in U.S.A.

